

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IR, AF, US

SUBJECT: IRANIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 7816

1. IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY KABUL IS PROVIDING ON USAID STAFFING LEVELS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO INFORM ASHRAFI AND OTHERS IN THE GOI WHO ARE INTERESTED THAT WE ARE NOT ONLY MEETING OBLIGATIONS ON EXISTING ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS BUT ALSO ARE CONSIDERING NEW PROJECTS AND ARE CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT FINDING WAYS OF COOPERATING IN AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE TAKING A CAUTIOUS APPROACH, BUT
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WE HAVE SO FAR APPROVED NEW COMMITMENTS TO THREE ON GOING PROJECTS SINCE THE APRIL 27 COUP INCLUDING DOL 3.2 MILLION FOR CENTRAL-HELMAND DRAINAGE II (THIS IS THE ONLY AGREEMENT WE HAVE SIGNED SO FAR), DOLS 1-8 MILLION FOR THE INTEGRATED WHEAT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (WE HAVE DIFFERENCES WITH THE DRA ABOUT THE VENUE OF THIS PROJECT), AND DOLS 1 MILLION FOR A BASIC HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT.

2. WE FEEL THIS APPROACH IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY
OF PROVIDING OPTIONS TO THE DRA OTHER THAN NEAR TOTAL
RELIANCE ON THE USSR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOI'S OWN
ATTITUDE TOWARD AFGHANISTAN RUNS ALONG PARALLEL LINES
AND THEREFORE WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD TAKE ACTIONS
SIMILAR TO OURS IN SUPPORT OF THIS GENERAL POLICY. VANCE

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